

RU Interested in....

Foreign Languages

At a glance...

Department at RU:
Office Location:
Telephone:
Fax:
Faculty Liaison:
College at RU:
Degree Type:

Foreign Languages and Literatures
Cook Hall 232
(540)-831-5489, 831-5120
(540)-831-5170
Dr. Philip Sweet, Chair
College of Arts and Sciences
Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science

AREA OF STUDY

Foreign Languages Offered:

Instruction is offered in French, German, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish.

Major Options Available:

Students can major in French, German and Spanish. The 30 semester hour major enables many students to pursue an additional major.

Minor Programs:

Besides minors in any of the foreign languages offered, students can also acquire a minor in Classical Humanities or in Intercultural Studies (an area studies minor).

CAREER PATHS

The Foreign Languages program develops students' international skills, both verbal and cultural, which are needed to work in business, communications, government, law or law enforcement, or in teaching a foreign language or English as a second language. Some students receive teacher certification or pursue linguistic or literary studies in graduate school as a preparation for an academic career in teaching and research.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS OFTEN ASK:

- **Can I receive college credit for having studied a language in high school?**
Yes you can. If your first college courses in a foreign language are on the second year level or beyond (or above the first 9 hours in Spanish) and if you receive at least a B and a C (or better) on those first two courses, you will receive an additional six hours of credit for the first year that you skipped.

- **When should I start or continue with my foreign language study?**
The sooner the better. You should build upon your high school skills by placing into an appropriate course already in your freshman year. In this way you will be able to achieve a higher level of proficiency that will make you more employable.
- **Is there a foreign language requirement?**
Yes, for some students. For a B.A. degree, you need to take two foreign language courses (in the same language) above the first eight or nine hours. Or if you are a beginner, you will need to take the first three courses (the first four in Spanish) for a total of 12 semester hours.
- **Why should I study a foreign language? Doesn't everyone speak English?**
You will enhance your employability, regardless of your major, in this tight job market. Moreover, one in six jobs in Virginia depends upon foreign trade, and English will be of help primarily when foreign exporters are selling to you, much less so when you are selling abroad. Foreign language skills will increase both your cognitive and occupational flexibility in a future job market in which one fourth of all jobs don't even exist yet!
- **Can I study abroad while at Radford?**
You certainly can. You will need a total immersion experience, in addition to taking courses, in order to become proficient in that language. The Spanish program offers both an intensive summer program in Spain and a semester program in Spain or Mexico. French students study in the summer or for a semester in Angers, France. German students can spend a semester or a year at the University of Kassel in Germany. The Kirk's Scholars study Mandarin in China for a month in the summer.

- **Are there scholarship opportunities for Foreign Language students?**

You can receive financial aid for participating in a Radford University study abroad program just like you can for a semester of study here on campus. The Department also offers six work-study scholarships to advanced foreign language students.

- **Can I double major?**

No problem. Since Foreign Language major and B.A. requirements can both be fulfilled with 30 semester hours, you still have 40 + hours for other majors or minors after completion of the General Education Program.

- **Are there co-curricular opportunities to develop or maintain foreign language skills outside of class?**

Yes, quite a bit. Conversation hours, the Foreign Language Lab's extensive collection of videos and software, our around-the-clock reception of foreign television broadcasts, and film festivals guarantee almost unlimited exposure to the spoken language outside of class.

- **Where can I obtain additional information about the Foreign Languages or International Programs and related career opportunities?**

- RU Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures
- Any of the Foreign Language faculty teaching the language in which you are interested
- RU McConnell Library
- RU Center for Experiential Learning and Career Development
- RU Advising Centers

RU ALUMNI PROFILE

"I work as Assistant to the Vice-president of EADS. My French major is what got me the job!"

Julie Rozansky
Graduated 2002;
BA degree in French
Julie works for EADS in Arlington, VA

**For an application to Radford University
contact the RU Admissions Office**



Radford University Office of Admissions
Martin Hall
PO Box 6903
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142

Phone: (540)-831-5371 or (800) 890-4265

Fax: (540)-831-5038

Email: ruadmissions@radford.edu

Homepage: www.radford.edu/Admissions.html